

Monday, March 15, 2010
Jim Hubbard, 202-225-2671
Sara Howard, 314-962-1523

With up-or-down health care vote possible this week...

Carnahan: "We need to pass a bill that holds insurance companies accountable, controls costs and gives Americans more insurance choices."

(WASHINGTON, DC) - With an up-or-down vote on health insurance reform legislation possible this week, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) will hold a telephone town hall tonight to talk with constituents about the importance of passing legislation that holds insurance companies accountable, controls costs and gives Americans more insurance choices.

"It's time to stand up for the millions of Americans who are struggling to keep up with rising health care costs," said Congressman Carnahan. "It's time for some common-sense rules that will protect consumers from the insurance companies. And it's time for American families and small businesses to have access to the same kinds of coverage options available to Members of Congress. If it's good enough for us, it should be available for everyone."

After more than a year of active debate, decades of discussion about health care, and legislation passed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Congress is poised to take a final up-or-down vote as early as the end of this week. The legislation will be posted online so that constituents and lawmakers have several days to review the bill before a vote takes place.

Carnahan will hold a telephone town hall, taking questions about health care from constituents from throughout the 3rd Congressional district. This is the fourth telephone town hall Carnahan has held, and one of dozens of public forums, town halls and meetings with constituents and health care experts since debate began last year. Throughout the week, Carnahan will continue to engage with constituents about the legislation through calls and meetings; he encouraged

citizens to continue contacting his office with thoughts and questions, either by visiting his official website, carnahan.house.gov/contact, or by calling 314-962-1523.

"Health care is an issue that affects all of us, whether we have coverage or not, and one of the most important parts of my job is to maintain a dialogue with Missourians, to answer their questions, hear their feedback and address their concerns" Carnahan said. "Even as families and businesses are struggling to make ends meet, insurance companies are raising rates - 20, 30, even 60 percent - as they're experiencing record profits during this recession.□ We can't expect our economy to recover with families facing these kinds of cost increases, and this problem isn't going to go away unless we stand up and do something about it."

###

Note: Press interested in listening to tonight's call at 7 pm CT should contact Russ Carnahan's press office.